

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

The specification is objected to for various informalities.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Seyama (U.S. Patent No. 4,912,603).

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Dougherty (U.S. Patent No. 4,912,603).

Claims 16-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Merrill (U.S. Patent No. 4,095,866).

Objection to Specification and Drawings

The specification has been corrected as required.

With regard to the Drawings, Applicant notes that the Drawings have been professionally prepared, in full compliance with all regulations, including under 37 CFR 1.84. It is Applicant's view that the Drawings are clear, and when reviewed with the specification, adequately and fully support the claims. If Examiner disagrees, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide specifics about what is confusing (e.g. which figure or which claimed feature).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

A difference between Applicant's claimed invention and the cited references is that Applicant is claiming a circuit board or circuit board arrangement that provides for external data bus connections. One aspect of Applicant's invention is to reduce overall signal length for data bus signals that need to pass through a circuit board (such as when such signals need to travel to another circuit board). Another aspect of Applicant's invention is to maintain timing of signals on different signal lines as these pass through one or more circuit boards (such as in a serpentine connection 7A-7C).

The references Seyama and Dougherty have teachings about signals that pass through a substrate, including vias or signals passed through a thickness of the board.

Applicant is more concerned with surface transmissions, not with signals that enter the substrate or vias. These signals include signals that enter a board from one end and are carried to the other in a manner that shortens signal path and preserves timing between adjacent signal paths.

The amended claims support this position. For example, claim 1 recites "wherein the first lateral edge of the circuit board and the second lateral edge of the circuit board are provided on the first side of the circuit board." Given signal paths extending between the two lateral edges, the claims are distinguishable from the cited references.

Among other limitations, Claim 7 recites no vias in its use of signal paths.

Applicant believes that for these and other reasons, independent claim 1, 7 and new claim 23 are allowable over the cited art, as are claims that depend from these independent claims.

Applicant has elected to pursue only claims that the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is requested.

CONCLUSION

It is Applicant's belief that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Applicant requests entry of the amendment and issuance of a Notice of Allowance. The Office is given permission to charge any unpaid fees to Applicants' deposit account (50-1914).

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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